

For Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
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INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (July 30, 2008): The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana announced today the selection of Debra McVicker Lynch for the position of United States Magistrate Judge. This position became available due to the elevation of William T. Lawrence to an Article III judgeship, effective July 1, 2008. Magistrate judges preside over many pretrial proceedings in both civil and criminal cases in federal court. A critical part of the job is conducting mediation and settlement proceedings in civil cases, helping parties settle their disputes by agreement.

A Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Committee chaired by retired Magistrate Judge V. Sue Shields reviewed more than 50 applications and recommended five candidates for the position. The District Judges of the court then selected Ms. Lynch from among those five candidates.

Ms. Lynch was born in Muncie, Indiana, and is a *summa cum laude* graduate of the Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Indiana Law Review*, and a *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Miami (Florida). Ms. Lynch is an adjunct professor at Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis, teaching the Complex Litigation course. She served as Special Master for Judge Sarah Evans Barker in the *Bridgestone/Firestone Tires Products Liability Multidistrict Litigation* from 2000 to 2004. She is an active member of the Local Rules Advisory Committee for the Southern District of Indiana, is secretary of the board of directors for the Carmel Clay Education Foundation, and has served as a volunteer for the Heartland Pro Bono Council. Ms. Lynch is a member of the Indiana State Bar Association, the Indianapolis Bar Association, the Seventh Circuit Bar Association, and is a Master Member of the Indianapolis American Inn of Court.

Currently, Ms. Lynch is Of Counsel at the law firm of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP (formerly Sommer Barnard PC), where she has practiced since 1988. Her practice has included litigation of contract disputes, business dissolutions, antitrust matters, securities fraud cases, professional malpractice actions, and non-competition and trade

secret matters. Ms. Lynch served as a law clerk to the Hon. Sarah Evans Barker from 1986 - 1988.

Ms. Lynch is married to Michael Lynch, who works for the Indiana State Board of Accounts. They are the parents of a son and daughter.

United States Magistrate Judges are appointed by the Judges of the U.S. District Court for a term of eight years, and are eligible for reappointment to successive terms. Ms. Lynch's appointment will be effective upon completion of required IRS and FBI background investigations.